

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: STATEMENT ON SHCHARANSKIY AND GINZBURG

REF: STATE 171519 (NOTAL)

1. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS READ BY DEPARTMENT SPOKES-
MAN AT JULY 7 NOON PRESS BRIEFING:

2. "WE VIEW WITH DEEP CONCERN THE OPENING OF THE TRIALS OF
ANATOLIY SHCHARANSKIY AND ALEXANDER GINZBURG. MR.
SHCHARANSKIY HAS BEEN HELD IN DETENTION BY THE SOVIET
AUTHORITIES FOR 16 MONTHS. HE HAS NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO
COMMUNICATE WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS. NOR HAS HE BEEN
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ALLOWED TO SELECT HIS OWN LEGAL COUNSEL FOR A TRIAL, WHICH
IS ITSELF UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES WHO
ARRESTED HIM. THESE FACTORS CALL INTO QUESTION THE FAIR-
NESS OF THE TRIAL AND THE PROTECTION OF MR. SHCHARANSKIY'S
HUMAN RIGHTS. THE US GOVERNMENT HAS REPEATEDLY MADE ITS
CONCERN FOR MR. SHCHARANSKIY KNOWN, BOTH PRIVATELY TO THE
SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND PUBLICLY. OUR INTEREST IN HIM IS

NATURAL IN VIEW OF HIS ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF HUMAN RIGHTS, PARTICULARLY FOR THE RIGHT TO EMIGRATE WHICH WE AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE A FIRM COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY INDICATED OUR SIMILAR CONCERN ABOUT THE FORTH-COMING TRIAL OF ALEXANDER GINZBURG.

3. "THESE TRIALS WILL BE WATCHED CLOSELY IN THE UNITED STATES. IN OUR VIEW, THE FATE OF MR. SHCHARANSKIY AND MR. GINZBURG WILL BE AN IMPORTANT INDICATOR OF THE ATTITUDE OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, BOTH WITH REGARD TO OBSERVING ITS COMMITMENTS UNDER THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND TO PROMOTING A HEALTHY ATMOSPHERE FOR THE CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS."

4. FOR MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD: THIS STATEMENT IS A CORRECTED VERSION OF STATEMENT TRANSMITTED REFTEL. VANCE

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